

RECORDS OF COLEOPTERA FROM ISLAY

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ABSTRACT

A collection of Coleoptera from the Inner Hebridean island of Islay has yielded 552 specimens representing 71 species. Collections were taken from beach and coastal dunes, river banks, moorland, and sheep carrion. Eighteen of the 71 species appear not to have been previously recorded from Islay. Five of the 71 species are new records for the Inner Hebrides. These five species were all collected from the sandy banks of a small river.

INTRODUCTION

The Coleoptera of the Inner Hebridean islands are imperfectly known. During a short stay on the Inner Hebridean island of Islay from 28 April to 1 May 2002 the weather conditions allowed me to undertake some sampling of this group. My efforts were limited in time and mainly confined to the close vicinity of the Machrie Hotel a few kilometres northwest of Port Ellen on the southern part of the island, and resulted in a list of only 71 species, based on 552 specimens (Table I). To my surprise eighteen of those were not mentioned for Islay in the list of Coleoptera of the Inner Hebrides by Welch (1983), nor in the additions by Sinclair (1988, 1991) or the water beetle survey of the island by Foster & Eyre (1988), and thus should be considered additions to the list for Islay Coleoptera. Five species are recorded for the first time from the Inner Hebrides.

RESULTS

The 71 species collected, based on 552 specimens, together with their habitats are shown in table I. The records are grouped according to four main habitat types as follows.

Beach and coastal dunes (B), between Machrie River and Kintra River (NR3148, NR3150, NR3248, NR3249, NR3250). Sparsely vegetated sand dunes, partly occupied by a golf course, beaches with some drift-wood, wrack and a dead gannet (both sifted), and marine rock pools.

River banks (R) of the Machrie River (NR3250). In the sampled part the rivulet flows through a moorland area within a steep, peaty embankment, before slicing through the coastal dunes to form exposed sandy banks. In both stretches the riparian fauna was sampled by flushing the banks and collecting the resulting floating debris.

Moorland (M), near Kintra and Loeh Eidhinn (NR3249, NR3250). Dry open heathland (sifted), flowering *Ulex europaeus* (beaten) and moorland including a peat cutting pool (netted) were sampled in this habitat.

Sheep carrion (S), a dead sheep in a late state of decomposition in exposed conditions near Braigo (NR2271).

SPECIES NEW TO THE INNER HEBRIDES

The following five species are new to the Inner Hebrides.

***Georissus crenulatus* (Rossi)** – A single specimen flushed from the sandy banks of the Machrie River, only a few hundred metres from the sea (28.vi.2002, NR320504). A typical species of exposed sandy banks, both along standing and streaming waters.

***Carpelimus similis* (Smetana)** – A single male together with the previous species. Another species typical of sandy river banks. Until recently confused with its close allies, *C. rivularis* (Motschulsky) and *C. bilineatus* Stephens (Owen, 1993), neither of which has been reported from the Inner Hebrides (Welch, 1983).

***Bledius terebrans* (Schiödte)** – One specimen collected at the same site as the above-mentioned species. Another typical inhabitant of water margins, where it buries in the soil.

***Bledius subterraneus* Erichson** – Five specimens were flushed from the sandy embankment of the Machrie River a few hundred metres more inland (28.vi.2002, NR324503). Yet another riparian species.

***Tachyporus dispar* (Paykull)** – This rove beetle species has only recently been separated from *T. chrysomelinus* (L.) (Booth, 1988). The latter species is mentioned from Islay by Welch (1983), but this record may as well refer to *T. dispar*. Two specimens were collected along the Machrie River (28.vi.2002, NR320504 & NR324503).

DISCUSSION

Certainly the Coleoptera of the Inner Hebridean islands are still imperfectly known, as a small collection of beetles from Islay resulted in five additions to the list of these islands. Remarkably enough they are all from the same habitat, the sandy banks of a small river. This probably just shows the little effort that has been made to sample this particular habitat in the past.

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Table 1. List of beetles recorded from Islay, 2002.

Species new to the Inner Hebrides are marked **, species new to Islay *. Beach and coastal dunes (B), River banks (R), Moorland (M), Sheep carrion (S). Notation in table. Example:
CARABIDAE *Bembidion pallidipenne*.
 Beach and coastal dunes (B).
 2/23 = records/specimens (23 specimens recorded from 2 sites).

	B	R	M	S
CARABIDAE				
<i>Clivina fossor</i> (L.)	1/1	.	.	.
<i>Broscus cephalotes</i> (L.)	1/1	.	.	.
<i>Bembidion pallidipenne</i> (Ill.)	2/23	1/5	.	.
<i>B. tetricolum</i> Say	.	1/2	.	.
<i>Paranchus albipes</i> (F.)	1/1	1/6	.	.
<i>Amara communis</i> (Panz.)	.	1/1	.	.
HALIPLIDAE				
<i>Haliplus lineatocollis</i> (Marsh.)	1/1	1/1	.	.
DYTISCIDAE				
<i>Hydroporus gyllenhalii</i> Schdte.	.	.	1/2	.
<i>H. melanarius</i> Sturm	.	.	1/2	.
<i>H. pubescens</i> (Gyll.)	.	.	1/6	.
<i>Agabus bipustulatus</i> (L.)	.	.	1/1	.
<i>Ilybius montanus</i> (Steph.)	.	.	1/4	.
HYDRAENIDAE				
<i>Hydraena cf britteni</i> Joy	.	1/1	.	.
<i>Ochthebius lejolisi</i> Muls. & Rey	1/2	.	.	.
<i>Limnebius truncatellus</i> (Thunb.)	.	2/2	.	.
GEORISSIDAE				
** <i>Georissus crenulatus</i> (Rossi)	.	1/1	.	.
HYDROPHILIDAE				
<i>Helophorus brevipalpis</i> Bedel	1/22	1/4	.	.
<i>H. flavipes</i> F.	.	2/2	1/1	.
<i>Cercyon littoralis</i> (Gyll.)	3/23	.	.	.
<i>Megasternum concinnum</i> (Marsh.)	.	1/1	.	.
<i>Anacaena globulus</i> (Payk.)	1/1	2/27	1/7	.
HISTERIDAE				
* <i>Margarinotus striola</i> Sahlb.	.	.	.	1/1
SILPHIDAE				
<i>Oiceoptoma thoracica</i> (L.)	.	.	.	1/1
PTILIIDAE				
* <i>Ptenidium punctatum</i> (Gyll.)	1/78	.	.	.
STAPHYLINIDAE				
<i>Omalium laeviusculum</i> Gyll.	2/34	.	.	.
<i>O. riparium</i> Thoms.	3/38	.	.	.
* <i>Lesteva pubescens</i> Marnh.	.	1/2	.	.
** <i>Carpelimus similis</i> (Smet.)	.	1/1	.	.
<i>Anotylus maritimus</i> Thoms.	1/1	.	.	.
<i>Bledius fergussoni</i> Joy	1/2	1/2	.	.
<i>B. longulus</i> Er.	1/4	1/9	.	.
** <i>B. subterraneus</i> Er.	.	1/5	.	.
** <i>B. terebrans</i> (Schdte.)	.	1/1	.	.
* <i>Stenus brunneipes</i> Steph.	.	.	1/1	.
<i>S. impressus</i> Germ.	.	.	1/3	.
* <i>S. juno</i> (Payk.)	.	2/2	1/1	.
<i>S. nitidulus</i> Steph.	.	2/7	1/1	.
* <i>Gyrohypnus angustatus</i> Steph.	.	.	1/1	.
<i>Xantholinus glaberratus</i> (Grav.)	1/1	.	.	.
<i>Cafius xantholoma</i> (Grav.)	1/1	.	.	.

<i>Philonthus cf sordidus</i> (Grav.)	1/1	.	.	.	.
<i>Gabrius osseticus</i> (Kol.)	1/1	1/1	.	.	.
<i>Creophilus maxillosus</i> (L.)	1/1	.	.	.	.
<i>Quedius tristis</i> (Grav.)	.	.	.	.	1/1
** <i>Tachyporus dispar</i> (Payk.)	.	2/2	.	.	.
* <i>Myllaena brevicornis</i> (Matth.)	.	2/2	.	.	.
<i>Alconota gregaria</i> (Er.)	1/1	.	.	.	.
<i>Amischa bifoveolata</i> (Mannh.)	.	1/2	.	.	.
<i>Atheta amicula</i> (Steph.)	1/1	.	.	.	.
<i>A. fungi</i> (Grav.) s.l.	.	1/1	.	.	.
* <i>A. obtusangula</i> Joy	.	1/2	.	.	.
<i>A. vestita</i> (Grav.)	3/117	.	.	.	.
<i>Acrotona aterrima</i> (Grav.)	1/1	.	.	.	.
* <i>Aleochara grisea</i> Kr.	2/2	.	.	.	.
* <i>A. obscurella</i> Grav.	2/4	.	.	.	.
<i>A. punctatella</i> Motsch.	3/18	.	.	.	.
PSELAPHIDAE					
<i>Bryaxis bulbifer</i> (Reichb.)	.	1/2	.	.	.
SCIRTIDAE					
<i>Cyphon hilaris</i> Nyh.	.	.	1/1	.	.
* <i>C. ochracea</i> Steph.	.	.	1/1	.	.
<i>C. palustris</i> Thoms.	.	1/10	1/3	.	.
DRYOPIDAE					
<i>Dryops ernesti</i> Goz.	.	1/1	.	.	.
<i>D. luridus</i> (Er.)	1/1	1/2	.	.	.
NITIDULIDAE					
<i>Epuraea aestiva</i> (L.)	.	.	1/1	.	.
CRYPTOPHAGIDAE					
<i>Micrambe vini</i> (Panz.)	.	.	1/16	.	.
<i>Atomaria</i> sp.	1/1	.	.	.	.
SCARABAEIDAE					
<i>Aegialia arenaria</i> (F.)	1/1	.	.	.	.
<i>Sericia brunnea</i> (L.)	1/1	.	.	.	.
CHRYSOMELIDAE					
* <i>Asiorestia ferruginea</i> (Scop.)	.	1/2	.	.	.
APIONIDAE					
<i>Apion haematoches</i> Kirby	.	1/1	.	.	.
CURCULIONIDAE					
<i>Philopedon plagiatum</i> (Schall.)	.	1/1	.	.	.
* <i>Rhinoncus pericarpius</i> (L.)	.	.	1/1	.	.

Summary of data

	B	R	M	S	
Total [records/specimens]	5/385	3/111	3/53	1/3	Σ 12/552
Number of species	31	33	18	3	Σ 71